A DIALOGUE

BETWEEN A

Modern Courtier,

AND AN

Honeſt Engliſh Gentleman.

To which is added

The AUTHOR's Dedication

TO

Both Houſes of Parliament,

To whom he Appeals for Juſtice.

By *SAMUEL BASTON*, Gent.

LONDON:
Printed in the Year MDCXCVII.

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DIALOGUE

BETWEEN A

Protestant Convict,

AND AN

Honest English Gentleman.

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TO THE

Lords Spiritual *and* Temporal, *and* Commons *in Parliament Assembled.*

AGainſt the Opening the preſent Seſſion of Parliament, I thought it my Duty, (conſidering the Nation's great Diſtreſs) to point out to your Honours, who were the principal Cauſers and Continuers of its Miſeries; which I did in the following Dialogue; Containing, 1*ſt*. Bare Matter of Fact already prov'd againſt the *Lords of the Admiralty, Commiſſioners of the Navy, Commiſſioners of the Poſt-Office*, and *Commiſſioners of the Sick and Wounded Seamen*, &c. with the foul Practices of the *Commiſſioners of the Publick Accounts*, for Concealing and Juſtifying the ſaid Crimes. 2*dly*, Natural Conſequences and Arguments drawn from the ſaid Matter of Fact, in Reference to Religion, Law, Policy and the true In-

Intereſt and Safety of the King and Kingdom.

The Book being out, it was ſeiz'd by Meſſengers, divers reporting it was *High Treaſon*, and Mr. *Croſfeild*, and a Poor Woman, were Committed to the *Poultrey Compter* about it, by a Juſtice of Peace, at the bare Inſtance of a Meſſenger: The ſaid Juſtice of Peace often profeſſing he was ſorry the matter came before him, for that by his own Loſſes he could ſpeak deeply to the Truth and Honeſty of the Book, but was afraid of being chid by ſome of the Court, if he neglected to do what the Meſſenger bid him, with Divers other Expreſſions of like Nature; which ſhews the great Force of Truth, that it will be Confeſs'd, tho from the mouths of its very Oppoſers.

I was alſo inform'd, that the aforeſaid Meſſenger had given direction to the ſaid Juſtice of Peace to Commit me the firſt time he ſaw me; for that there was a Warrant out againſt me for *High Treaſon* (which Trouble they need not have given the Juſtice of Peace, for they knew where to have found me themſelves.) But I being very infirm and weak of body, by reaſon of long ſickneſs (occaſion'd by my ill uſage) was unwilling to be committed to

New-

Newgate, in this ſmugling manner, to deſtroy my Health (which I knew was the Deſign againſt me); and the ſaid Juſtice of Peace, thro' Ignorance and Timerouſneſs, wou'd certainly have done it, (had he ſeen me) tho the book I had printed had been *David*'s *Pſalms*.

This Report was on *Saturday*, and the *Monday* following I went to the Secretaries Office to ſurrender my ſelf to this Warrant of *High Treaſon*: but, upon Enquiry, found there was no Warrant againſt me for *High Treaſon*; Sir *William Trumball*'s Secretary making a Jeſt of it, told me, 'twas only the Meſſenger's miſtake (but I could not get him to examine the Meſſenger about it); and that what was againſt me in that Office, was only upon Suſpicion of being the Author of this Dialogue (ſo the *High Treaſon* was fallen only to Suſpicion of a Miſdemeanour), and that I muſt ſubmit to be confin'd in a Meſſenger's Cuſtody, which was accordingly done. After ſome days I got a ſight of the Warrant for my Commitment, which was not upon Suſpicion of my being the Author of this *Dialogue* (as I was told at the Office), but for *Publiſhing and Diſperſing a Seditious and Scandalous Libel againſt His Ma-*

Majesty and Government; without Naming what Libel, or mentioning its Title in the Warrant. The Warrant also shews, that 'twas drawn after *I* surrender'd my self; for it begins thus, *These are in His Majesties Name to require you to keep in safe Custody*, &c. Whereas another Warrant directed to a *Messenger*, to apprehend any Person, commands him to go and take a Constable to his assistance, and seize or attach the Body of such a one, and bring him and his Papers before the Secretary to be Examined, &c. By which it appears what Drudgery was design'd for this Timerous Justice of Peace to commit me to *Newgate* for High Treason, to Ruin my Health without Warrant, Law, or Sence.

Thus *I* continued a Prisoner in a *Messenger*'s Custody from the 26*th October* 1696. to the 29*th January* following, being 3 months and 3 days, to the great endangering of my Life by bad Diet, and was then discharg'd, giving a Recognizance of 500 *l.* to appear the first day of the next *Term*. So *I*, that have serv'd the King, and discover'd, and detected many of the Inner Enemies of his *Majesty* and his *People*, am now Cited to answer as a Criminal, for pointing out the Destroyers of the Nation to the Parliament.

And

And those Notorious Criminals *I* write of in this *Dialogue*, are brought to no *Tryal*, but protected, as if there was no Law to take Cognizance of them.

And further, the matters of Fact related in this *Dialogue* (the *Post-Office* excepted) are no more than what are contain'd in a Petition and Articles Exhibited by *Mr. Crosfeild* and others, in the House of Peers, about two years since, where it is now depending: The late *Commissioners of Accounts*, to whom it was Referr'd to Examine into it, and make their Report, having hitherto by Evasions, and False Allegations, in behalf of the Criminals, delay'd and stopt the laying open these Grievances, and have to this day disappointed your Honours of a true Knowledge of them; whereby the said Grievances have been supported and increased; for which the Nation has severely suffer'd; But has reason now to give thanks to God, that the said Commission is so happily Dissolv'd, *which was so great a Bulwork of Iniquity*; And I hope it is a good Omen, or Presage of a General Overthrow of Fraud and Wickedness.

So,

So now becauſe the Facts contain'd in this Dialogue, are not yet Examin'd in Parliament, (by means of the aforeſaid Commiſſioners of Accounts) the Printing them again, to re-mind the Parliament of the preſent miſeries, that God may be honour'd by the Puniſhment and Suppreſſion of Wickedneſs, the King and Kingdoms Enemies remov'd, and the Laws put in Execution for the publick ſafety, for the future, is (it ſeems) become *A Seditious and Scandalous Libel, againſt his Majeſty and Government.* I'm ſure, this Dialogue chiefly depends but upon three things. Firſt, Truth in the matter of Fact related. Secondly, The Goſpel in reference to Gods Judgments, for Immorallity and Tollerated Wickedneſs. And Thirdly, The Laws of the Land in reference to their being Invaded, and Perverted, and not put in Execution: And if this Dialogue will endure a Tryal by theſe three Touch-Stones, and yet continue ſtill to be a *Seditious and Scandalous Libel, &c.* Why, then, Truth muſt be Scandalous, and the Scripture and Statutes of *England* Seditious Libels, and he that Writes for the ſafety and preſervation of the King and Kingdom, is an Enemy to his Majeſty and Government. This ſhews how

Exceedingly

Exceedingly Wickedness abounds, and what a Cabal of Men there are in Power, ready to turn the King's Authority against himself, and to subvert *Gospel, Law, Loyalty, Justice*, and all things tending to the honour of God, and benefit of the King and State.

This *Dialogue* is call'd *a seditious Libel*: Whereas it speaks for the *Execution of the Law* with as much Force as words can express. Now where the Law is put in Execution, there can be no *Sedition*; but where the *Laws and Constitutions of a Kingdom* are *invaded and perverted*, by the *Arbitrary Power of Evil Ministers*, it is that which introduces *Sedition*; and as *Sedition* is a dangerous Distemper in a Nation, so the Impartial Execution of the Law is a Sovereign and Certain Cure. And whereas it is call'd *a scandalous Libel*, I answer, that if 'tis true, 'tis *not scandalous*, and every Subject of *England* has an undoubted Privilege to Complain of, and discover *Injuries done to the King*, and also lay open *the Grievances of his People*: And if all the Subjects of *England*, tho in never so high a Station, are subject to the Law, and answerable for their *Actions* (which I hope is not in the least question'd), then this *Dialogue* will not deserve these *Characters*, nor the *Author* deserve to be Arraign'd as a *Criminal* for writing it (while *the real Criminals* he writes of are protected): For certainly *the pure and undefiled Law of Eng-*

land does not provide any *punishment* for its *Advocates*. 'Twas a Noble saying of that Glorious Prince *Edw.* 3. of Famous Memory (when he hang'd his Chief Justice [*Thorp*] of the *Kings Bench*, for taking a Bribe of 100*l.*) *That he being intrusted as the King's Deputy, to administer Justice in that Court, had, as much as in him lay, broken that solemn Oath that his Majesty made to his People at his Coronation.*

If such strict Scrutinies shou'd be made in these Days, (which no doubt God Requires) what a multitude would there be found Guilty of this *Chief Justice's Crime*, who continue to practice it without any regard to their Master's *Safety*, *Honour* or *Coronation-Oath*, or Safety of their Country? nay, so far are they from thinking it a *Crime*, that a Learned Lawyer not long since (as I was inform'd) brought it as a mighty Objection to the Bill against buying and selling Offices, *That the Perquisites of his Employment came to about* 3000*l. per an.* and pray'd a Clause in the Bill to secure it to him, which shews how strong a desire he had still to be able to Expose the Rights and Liberties of the People to Sale to the highest Bidder: So Religious a Regard had that Gentleman to his Master's *Coronation-Oath*. Nevertheless, such Corrupt Men as these, who so openly oppose Justice, do generally pretend to have a great Love for their Sove-

reign,

reign, and how they'll stand by him with their Lives and Fortunes, and what not, when alas, their Love has no more reallity than the pretended Love of a Common Harlot: For Certainly, a Corrupt and Unfaithful Servant, can no more Love his Master, than an Adulterous Wife can Love her Husband.

It is not Improbable, but this Dialogue may by a Tryal in the Kings *Bench* be made (as 'tis call'd) *A Seditious and Scandalous Libel against his Majesty and Government*; And so the Tables shall be turn'd, and I shall be try'd as a Criminal, for laying open the Nations Grievances to the Parliament, and the Criminals acquited of the Crimes they are accus'd of, without any Tryal at all; It cannot be suppos'd, that I shall have free Liberty in the Kings *Bench Court*, to bring such Numbers of Witnesses, as are necessary to prove the Matters of Fact contain'd in this Dialogue; For the Court is ty'd to one single Issue, and therefore cannot Enquire into the bottom of Grievances in the State: Besides, it is rarely seen that any Man escapes the Censure of the Courts of *Westminster*, who runs Counter to the Predominant Party at *White-Hall*, let his Cause be ever so just; Instances enough may be given of it in the late Reigns, when the Courts of Justice have (under pretence of Law) been made perfect Slaughter-Houses to Punish, Imprison, Fine, and take away the Lives of Divers Noble Patriots of their Countrey, for doing that which we now call their Duty, whose memories we Commemorate, and the Judgments against them have been Revers'd in Parliament. But Certainly, it had been much more Honourable (if it cou'd have been done) to have sav'd their Lives, by putting a stop to their Illegal Tryals; than now to say, we are sorry for their Deaths.

Therefore, I most humbly appeal to this most *August* Assembly, who in these Cases are ty'd to no single Issue, but may

may throughly enquire and search into the Nations Grievances, (which my Designs has been only Loyally and Faithfully to lay open) humbly Conceiving, that if I produce Witnesses to prove the Matters of Fact, Contain'd in this Dialogue; That then it will not deserve the Title, given it in the Warrant for my Commitment, *Viz. A Seditious and Scandalous Libel, against His Majesty and Government.* Neither, shall I deserve to be Arraign'd at the Kings *Bench Bar* as a Criminal, the next Term, where I am bound to appear by Recognizance of 500 *l.* after above three Months Imprisonment, to the hazard of my Life.

And being thus ready and able to produce Witnesses, to prove the said Matters of Fact, Contain'd in this Dialogue (to the great Advantage of the King and Government) whenever your Honours shall please to Command; I humbly Cast my self upon your Honours Justice and Protection, that no such Prosecution may be made against me, as is intended, till I be first heard, and have liberty to prove, that what I have Written in this Dialogue is Truth, and for the King and Kingdoms true Interest, Peace, and Safety, and then I shall be willing to stand a Tryal at the Kings *Bench Bar*; And submit to what Law my Adversaries can find, to punish me, for Writing this Dialogue. I am,

With all Dutiful Respect,

London, *the* 16*th of* March, 169⅞. *Your Lordships, and Honours,*

Most Obedient Servant,

SAMUEL BASTON.

A DIALOGUE BETWEEN A Modern *Courtier*, and an Honest *English* Gentleman.

Courtier. DEAR Sir, Your Humble Servant, you are Welcome to Town; Pray how long have you been arrived.

Gentleman. Sir, I came but last Night, and thought my self oblig'd to pay my Respects to you in the first place: I hope all your Noble Family is well.

C. I thank you Sir, they are very well; But pray how does your good Lady? And how do Matters go in the *Country?*

G. Why we are all reasonable well in Health, but out of Order every way else: For the Taxes are so high, Money so scarce, Trade so dead, *&c.* That I Protest my Estate is so Cultivated, 'twill hardly maintain my Family.

C. Come, Sir, you are my Worthy Friend, and therefore I would not have you find Fault with any thing; for, if you are willing, I doubt not, but you may soon have such an Employment, that you will not feel the weight of the Taxes;

may, you may be a Great Gainer by the War; and I would fain have you in the Government. What say you, Will you Advance a small Summ.

G. Sir, I give you many Thanks for your kind Offers which at this time-a-day I can by no means accept; and I am desirous to be plain with you in my Reasons for Refusal: but you being a Privy-Councellor, and Member of Parliament, &c. I know not whether 'twill be Convenient to use Freedom of Speech; for, you may Interpret some things I may say, as Reflections on your Self.

C. Sir, I assure you, what I Offer is design'd for your Interest; but, if you don't approve on't, you may use what Freedom of Speech you please; for, though I am Honour'd with those Offices you mention, yet that shall not, in the least, be any barr to the freedom of our Discourse, neither shall I take any thing Ill, for I perceive you have a desire to Talk about Publick Affairs.

G. Sir, I heartily Thank you for the Liberty you have given me. And now I must tell you, that I am of Opinion, there is such a *Cabal* of Corrupt Men in the Government, that 'tis impossible for an Honest Man to live and act amongst them, unless he will renounce his Duty to God and his Country; For (as one well observes) *Good and Bad Men Joyn'd in a Government, are like the Iron and Clay in the Toes of* Nebuchadnezar's *Image, they may Cleave, but they will never Incorporate.*

C. Why truly, what you Alledge, is a good Reason for not taking an Employment, provided there be any Just Grounds for your Opinion about the Corruption in the Government. I Confess there is, and has been a Great Noise and Clamour about Corruption and Mismanagement, and I have always endeavoured, as narrowly as I could, to search out the Truth of Matters, but could never yet find any thing so Material, as to be worthy the Cognisance of either King or Parliament.

However

However, Great Clamours have been made by some Private-Men, who (I suppose) were Male Contents, they have Promis'd Vast Discoveries of Treachery and Fraud, but when it has come to Examination, I never found that the Accusers could make out their Allegations, but Mountains dwindled away into Mole-hills, and, as I said before, nothing appear'd that was thought worthy of *Cognizance*.

G. I find, by your Discourse, you endeavour not only to Evade, but Cover those Gross and Monstrous Evils that have been the Causes of the Length of the War, and of our Present Distress: Sir, I know not what kind of *Miscarriages* you think are worthy of *Cognisance*, but, I fear, upon Examination, 'twill be found, that the Crimes already prov'd in the Faces of our Rulers, will Amount to the Degree of *ROBBERY* and *MURDER*; and, which makes them more Hainous, they have not been done in a *Hostile Manner*, in Open Defiance of the Law, as the High-way-man takes away your *Money* on the Road, But with the Audacious Face of Authority, under the Sacrilegious *Mask* of Law, Justice and State-Pollicy. The Authors and Upholders of these *Mischiefs* in the mean time blowing the Trumpet of Fame in each others Praise, as Long-headed Councellors, &c. So that I do not wonder these matters should be Rejected, and not thought worthy of Cognizance, when I consider that Infallible *Maxim, That the Inferiours cannot be Knaves, and be Protected by the Superintendants, unless those Superintendants be as bad*, And thus it appears almost Impossible any Fault could be Punished, but that all Criminals must be Protected, and their Crimes hid from the King, when *Corrupt Men* sat Judges of each others Actions——Therefore 'twas not likely they would hurt one another; For the very *Scripture* tells you, *That Satan cast not out Satan, if he should his Kingdom would fall.*

C. Sir, you have Charg'd the Court with a Witness; yet 'tis

but a General and bare Assertion; and let me tell you (being something Concern'd) there's a great difference between Asserting and Proving; and therefore I'd fain have you (if you can) branch out your General Charge into some particular Instances, as for what may seem to Reflect upon me, as I told you before, please to use your Freedome, for I shall not Resent any thing that shall happen in Discourse at this time.

G. Why then, Sir, for your Satisfaction, I shall give you some Instances, that have accidentally fallen under my Observation, which I fear, in Reference to the Mighty *Mass* of *Corruption* in the Government, will be found only as a small Pattern or Sample of a vast quantity of Goods, that the Whole Parcel is of the same Sort, otherwise there cou'd never be such an agreeable sweet harmony among all the Offices, in Crying up the Parts, and hiding the Crimes of each other from King and People: But having more than one Office to speak of, I think I shall begin first with that of the Navy.

The Commissioners of that Office have been accus'd of making most horrible Waste of the Publick Treasure, by a long Practice of Fraudulent Contracts for Naval-Stores, and driving Trades in Embezelling all sorts of Stores, as well as Foul and Shameful Extravagance in Building and Repairing the King's Ships: These things have been Fully Prov'd against them before the Lords of the Admiralty, and before the Lords of the Council, and afterwards openly set forth in Print to both Houses of Parliament, and yet the Delinquents are still Continu'd in their Employments. So that by this Open Villany, the Necessary Charge of the Navy is more than doubled, and the King Shamefully Betray'd and Cheated, and His Subjects made Beggars by Heavy Taxes. But there is one thing more that is a most Dangerous and Cursed Evil, and that is the Usage of the Poor Saylors, whose Number is about Forty Thousand Employed in the Service of their King and Country:

Countrey: Their *DEPLORABLE CASE* has been often at Large set forth in Print, and made known to the Parliament, Council, Admiralty, *&c.* And to Relate all their Grievances, and the Curſed Arts us'd to Ruin and Deſtroy them and their Families would be Endleſs: Therefore to avoid being Tedious, I ſhall only give you a ſhort Account of their *MISERIES*, as I find it Inſerted in a BOOK, Entituled, *Juſtice Perverted*, &c. Printed and Publiſhed laſt Year by Mr. *Croſfeild*, and *Dedicated* to *Both Houſes of Parliament*. The BOOK contains beſides this a Great *Maſs* of Flat Down-right Knavery; and the Commiſſioners of the Navy, and others, are Named therein to the particular Facts: But I find, it has all been paſs'd over and Stifled. However, I ſhall Relate it as follows, in his Own Words, haying, by Good Luck, the BOOK in my Pocket to Aſſiſt me.

"*The poor Seylors (Says he) that Venture their Lives and "Limbs to Servie their King and Country, and who are one of the "greateſt Bulworks of the Kingdom, have been all along moſt In- "humanely and Barbarouſly Treated; and they and their Families "reduc'd to a Miſerable and Deplorable State, particularly by the "wicked practices of putting QUERY's and RUNS upon their Pay. "For amongſt thoſe great Numbers that are Set on Shoar Sick; "thoſe that Dye and others that Continue Sick above Thirty Days, "and thoſe ſent to the* London *Hoſpitals who are thereby diſabled to "return to their Ships, are for the moſt part made Run. Others "whoſe Ships are Sayl'd before recovery having gone aboard other "Ships, are prick'd Run in that Ship from which they were Sent: "And if a Seaman is Turned over from Ship to Ship, and by that "means has Serv'd on board four or five Ships in the Navy, Yet "if he happens to be prick'd Run in the laſt Ship he ſerv'd in, he "muſt of Conſequence be prick'd Run in all the preceding Ships. "By this Means a Query or Run takes away a Mans pay worſe than "an Execution, and by the preſent practice no Seaman, or his poor

"Family

" Family is at any Certainty of having the benefit of the Kings pay,
" For it is in the power of the Captain, Captain's Clerk, Purser,
" Clerk of the Checque, Muster-Master, or Clerks in the Navy-
" Office, wherever they please to put a Rum or Query upon any
" Seamans pay without Inserting the Reason for so doing, or the
" Name of the person that put it, so that for these Black pieces of
" Robbery, No one is lyable to be Call'd to Account, but the poor
" Saylor is kept wholly in the Dark, and he or his Wife may wait at
" the Navy-Office Month after Month with Petitions to no purpose,
" till he has Spent all his Substance, and if he begins to talk of his
" being thus Cheated and Robb'd, he is Threatned to be Try'd for
" his Life as a Mutineer: So that the Barbarity the poor Saylors
" do and have Suffer'd this War is unexpressible, For the Blood of
" Thousands of Familys are pour'd out as Sacrifices to the Cove-
" tousness of those whose Duty and place it is to be their Guardians
" and Protectors. By all which it's plain, That whatever Good-
" Laws may be made for the Increase and Incouragement of Seamen,
" will prove Ineffectual, so long as these Practices Continue.

" These Grievances have been at large set forth in Prints by one
" Mr. Hodges, and a Scheme of their true Cause laid bare-fac'd
" before the Admiralty by Mr. Trevor in a Letter, and a remedy
" for them proposed in Writing, to the Admiralty by Mr. Gibson,
" by order of a Committee of Council; and why there's nothing
" done but this Fraud and Robbery still practis'd and supported, is,
" what no reason can be given for, since neither Mr. Hodges's,
" Mr. Trevors, nor Mr. Gibsons Paper's before-mention'd; have
" ever been exploded.

" The Lords of the Treasury were so fully Convinc'd of these
" Cheats, that their Lordships did by Warrant under their hands in
" December last, appoint Mr. Gibson to receive all Infor-
" mations of abuses in Payment of Seamens Tickets; which doubt-
" less, would have put a stop to these wicked Practices, Notwith-
" standing which, the said Mr. Gibson has never been suffer'd to

" Act,

" Act, and so their Lordships good Intentions have been wholly " defeated: But why their Lordships have not been able to put " their own orders in Execution, is another strange thing to me.

This is the Account he gives, and 'tis certainly very amazing to consider that the Government should be so wretchedly Corrupt, as to pass over Crimes of such fatal Consequence.

But, you may see that by this Cheating and Robbing there are vast Summs of Mony gotten for some body, and certainly the Actors in it cannot have the whole profit to themselves, but it must be distributed elsewhere, to persons of higher Rank; Because their Interest is so great, that even after Conviction, they have power enough to Chain up Law and Justice from doing their proper Offices. And now Sir, what think you, are these Crimes worthy of Cognizance or not? but I have many more to add.

C. Why then, Pray Sir proceed, for this is something more than I knew before; I confess, one of *Grosvild's* Books was given me at the House of Commons, it lies somewhere about the House, but I had never time to read it over.

G. Indeed I thought as much, for it appears all things of that kind have hitherto been shamefully thrown aside as waste Paper, as if the persons to whom they were Dedicated did not desire to be Informed: But I shall go on and give you some Account of the Commissioners of the Admiralty.

Their Lordships have been accus'd of Concealing and Advocating the Crimes of the *Navy-Board*, and Discouraging and Ruining such of the Kings faithful Officers and Subjects, that laid them open; this has been prov'd against them before the Council, but all things lie dormant and unregarded: So that here is three degrees of such fatal Corruption, from the *Navy* to the *Admiralty*, and from them to the *Council*, that alone is sufficient to shake the very Foundation of the Government.

It were endless, to tell you the rest of the *Admiralties* Crimes, who thro' Corruption and Ignorance, have not been able with about two hundred Sail of Ships to Guard our Navigation; whereby Trade has been destroy'd, and our Merchants undergone Infinite Losses, which our Enemies have had the Benefit of; and then further, the Admiralty have all along plac'd Commanders in the *Fleet* without any regard to Merit. So that this War we have lost above a hundred Ships, the greatest part of which have been fool'd away, by the Ignorance of the Commanders; and some by Cowardice without fighting, besides the horrid Miscarriages in Expeditions against the Enemy, as the shameful Expedition to *Brest*, &c. Which serves only to dispirit the People, and Increase their Taxes. Certainly a Man would think, that these Gentlemen have a design Totally to destroy the Navigation of *England*, for tho the Crimes of the *Sea* Commanders are so Hanious and Numerous; yet has not one of their Sea Journals been Examin'd all this War, to see how they have perform'd their Duty, tho there is no other way to Judge of their Fidelity and Ability in their Stations but by Tracing their Journals; and thus Ignorance and Negligence, as well as horrible Profaneness and Debauchery has generally over-spread the *Sea*, as well as the Land. But what should I speak any more of this Admiralty, for every one knows their Wickedness and Ignorance, yet I have often wonder'd there has not been more Complaints against them, from the *East-India* and *Guinea* Company and others, who are almost Ruin'd with Losses. Certainly our Merchants are like the Fools spoken of by *Æsop*, that none would meddle to remove the Stone from the Mouth of the *Bath*, tho every Man stumbled, and broke his shins over it at going in, till at last a Wise Man came and Roll'd it away. God grant we may have some VVise Men by the next Parliament, that will stand up for the publick good, or else in short we must prepare for foul VVeather.

C.

C. But Sir, what needs all this Complaint, why moft of theſe ſores are heal'd, for here's a Council of Trade now ſet-led, by which the Merchants Grievances, and ſeveral other things will be rectify'd.

G. I confeſs, the Council of Trade was excellently propos'd at firſt to the Parliament, But the Intereſt of the Court quickly *eat out its Bowels*, and from this Eſtabliſhment I doubt little good will ariſe, my reaſons for it are theſe. *Firſt*, They do not underſtand Trade, 'tis Forreign to them, and out of their ſphere. *Secondly*, I cannot but obſerve, that the Major part of theſe perſons are the ſame that ſit in Council, and from time to time have heard the Crimes of the Admiralty and Navy, and wanted no Power to redreſs thoſe Grievances there: So that the Regulation is no more than removing theſe Gentlemen from one Room to another, as the Barons of the *Exchequer* paſs from the *Law* to the *Chancery ſide*, now certainly if I am a Corrupt or Ignorant Man in the Parlour, I am the ſame in the Dineing Room.

But Sir, here you hardly Arraign the very Wiſdom of the Government.

G. Yes, certainly and their honeſty too (if by the Government you mean the Court) or elſe what d' think I have been talking of all this while, or how is it poſſible I could ſpeak at all of any publick Grievances, unleſs I Arraign'd both, without you would have me ſay, We are all Ruin'd; and at the ſame time affirm, that no body did it. But I muſt beg your patience a little further, becauſe you did as it were Challenge me to give you ſome Inſtances of Corruption.

C. Sir, Then you may proceed as you pleaſe; I am ſorry to hear ſo much, tho I think none of it does Actually relate to me, for I'm ſure, I always did what I could.

G. Why, then in the next place, I ſhall give you ſome Ac-

count of the Commissioners, for taking Care of Sick and Wounded Seamen, and Exchanging Prisoners of War, and there you will also find to be a wretched Pack. For one of that Clerks who laid down his Employment has prov'd No-torious Crimes against them; as holding a Pernicious and Unlawful Correspondence with the *French* all this War, So that there has been an open and quick passage to give Intelligence to the Enemy of all our Affairs and Designs, and to betray the Kings Councils from time to time, also he has prov'd that they have Cheated the King in their Accounts; and cheated the poor Sick and Wounded Seamen in *Plymouth* Hospital out of their Provisions, and that they have all along Cheated the Poor *French* Prisoners under their Care, out of part of their Allowance, and treated them in a very Barbarous manner. For it seems their whole Allowance was but four pence each Man a day, and they defalcated three farthings out of that four pence. It was also prov'd, that the *French* Intendant General *Mayne*, wrote diverse doleful Letters of Complaint to these Commissioners, telling them how Barbarously and inhumanely the poor French Prisoners were us'd, whereby many of them Perished. And that he had Orders from the *French* King to use our *English* Prisoners in like manner if it was not redrest. But no Regulation being made, but the Evil rather Increasing, was the true Cause that the *French* have all along us'd our poor *English* Captives in such a dreadful and Barbarous Manner. For by reason of their Miserable short allowance and lying diverse Months in Filthy and Loathsome Prisons, and others by being driven like Gally Slaves several hundred Miles Naked through the Country. I say from these Causes many hundreds of them have Perished, and many Familys have thereby been brought to utter Ruin; Nay their Men have Committed Murther on both sides of the Water. For besides the *English*, they have lately and Cruelly destroy'd many of

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the poor *French* prisoners, which doubtless is no less Murther in the Sight of God notwithstanding the War.

These and Diverse other Crimes were Examin'd and prov'd before the Admiralty by the Kings Special Order above two years since, and a Report thereof was made to his Majesty and Carry'd by the Admiralty to the *Cabinet-Council*, but the Matter was so manag'd, that the Report was Stifled and not Read to the King; so that the Commissioners, upon their Petition, were granted a Re-hearing before the Council in Publick, where these Matters were Fully Prov'd over again; but the business was delay'd from time to time, till the King was gone for *Flanders*, so that the Report of the Council was also kept from his Majesty, and how that Report was afterwards Curry'd in his Majestys absence I know not, but this I know, the Commissions are still in their places with power to pursue their Villainy; so that what I told you just now appears again to be true. *That Satan cannot Cast out Satan.*

There may many things more be said of these Men's horrid Wickedness, as their destroying the poor Sick and Wounded Seamen with bad Medicines for the *Lucre* of gain; which with many other Crimes were fully prov'd against them before the Comissioners for Stateing the publick Accounts, where some Witnesses they brought appear'd most *Willfully and Notoriously perjur'd*, and Escap'd punishment. But for a more plain and particular Information herein, I shall refer you to a Book Printed and Publish'd last year, by the Person that brought the Complaint against these Men, and Dedicated to the house of Peers, It is Entituled *Bastons Case* (for so was the Clarks Name) *or a Brief Account of the Evil Practices of the present Commissioners for Sick and Wounded, as they were prov'd 1st Before the Lords of the Admiralty, 2dly Before the Lords of the Council, and 3dly Before the Commissioners for Stateing the publick Accounts.* For there is Contain'd the Admiralty's and Councils Report,

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and there the Crimes of these Commissioners for Sick and Wounded lye barefac'd to the World.

And now Certainly it would Stir up a Mans Zeal for the publick good, if he did but Consider in what Jeopardy and peril the poor Saylor Serves his King and Country; For (besides the hazard of his Life in open Fight) if he continues in the Kings Service without being Sick or Wounded or Taken by the Enemy, why then he's lyable to be *Query'd*, or *Run'd* out of his pay, or oblig'd for Necessity to sell his Ticket for half loss (or more) to some of those Cursed Monsters, call'd *Ticket-buyers*, who (as it has appear'd too plain) are but *Deputy's or Journy-men to the Navy Board*. If he is set on Shear Sick and Fresh dyet and Breath will not Cure him, why then he runs a great hazard of being Poyson'd with his Physick, but if he recovers 'tis ten to one but he's prick'd *Run*; And if he's taken by the Enemy 'tis a great Chance if ever he returns to his Native Country.

Certainly it must ere long be Counted hard Measure, that for such petty-Renal Robbery and Murther, as taking away a small Matter upon the Road, or for killing another in a Duel for an injury receiv'd that a Man shou'd be hang'd like a Dog; When such wholesale Murtherers and Robbers as those are protected and Flourish in their Villany, though their Actions tend to the utter Subversion and overthrow of a State: But this is an Age full of Wonders. *For from the Court proceeds Abundance of Fresh and Prevailing and Pushing, but hardly a Grain of Integrity, Honesty, Justice or Humanity, as if these were Accounted Needless Ingredients in Religion.*

But I am unwilling to try your patience any further with these unpleasing Relations, otherwise I could add several other things and particularly of the Commissioners of the Post Office, how they have been lately prov'd Notoriously Corrupt and unfaithful before the Lords Justices, likewise more might be said

of

of other Offices, and also of the great Corruption in the Army and abuse of the poor Soldiers, by the Agents and others, which was also plainly proy'd; But I think this is Enough at present to shew you what a Condition the Nation is in: For any one may Judge by these, what the other Offices are. They being all Streams that proceed from the same Fountain (I mean the Court) and must consequently afford the same Bitter Water. And now I hope you are thoroughly convins'd that the Complaints of Grievances have not been meer Clamour, as you were pleased to say in the beginning of our discourse.

C. I Confess Sir these things do look with an Ill face: Yet 'tis the greatest Riddle in the World to me, how such Miscarryages as these can'd be carry'd on, when we have had for some years past a *Commission Established by Act of Parliament to Take State and Examine the publick Accounts of the Kingdom*, and they have Power by the Act to Administer Oaths and to Call all Persons to an Account that have the Receipts or Issues of the Publick Revenue and that *Commission* consists only of Members of the house of Commons who are utterly unqualify'd for any Employments at Court, and consequently unbyas'd Men: And therefore I wonder how these things can be.

G. Why I Confess, this is a *Mystery of Iniquity* that has darken'd the understandings of some, however 'tis a matter easily untiddled, for 'twill be found that these are also a pack of Gentlemen, nothing Inferiour to the worst of those already spoken of; for as the Court have had the Grievances of the People from the King, so these have kept them from the Parliament and pay'd such Arbitrary Arts, Tricks, and Devices to acquit and Justify the worst of Villains that have come before them, and to blacken the Reputations of Honest Men that certainly the like has not been known, for an Instance of which I refer you to the Printed Book I spoke of, just now, about the Crimes of the Commissioners for Sick and Wound-

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ed, Entituled *Bastons Case*, &c. There you will see in what an Arbitrary manner they heard that business, and Endeavoured by all the Numerous ways Imaginable, to acquit those Commissioners of Crimes they had been prov'd Guilty of twice before, *Viz.* at the *Hammerly* and *Council*. They allow'd Criminals to swear in their own behalf contrary to Law, and when *Baston* made them appear Notoriously perjur'd, they Barbarously Encourag'd one of them to swear on, whose Name was *Nicholas Smarkey* which he did, and was perjur'd again, and again, as plain as the Sun, and as black as Hell; and then they discharg'd him any further Attendance, with as much Commendation and Applause as if he had Sworn right, but I refer you to the Book for that and much more, for by this *Heyde and Unusual Method* of Swearing Criminals in their own behalf; with diverse other new Invented Arbitrary ways in hearing the Peoples Grievances, these Gentlemen can at pleasure make the Devil white. However, it seems this business of the Commissioners for Sick and Wounded was so plain (being twice before both prov'd and Reported) that they were not able to wipe off their Guilt and Infamy: But this they were able to do for them, to bury it in their Office and keep it from the knowledge of the House of Commons, which they have accordingly done. And when it was afterwards brought into the House of Lords to be heard, they prevented it there also by a Trick, and got it out of the House, for they Acquainted their Lordships that the matter was then depending before their Board, and [illegible] be Recommitted to them to finish the Fine and make their Report, which the House accordingly did. But the Report is not made to this day, neither will be I suppose till the day of Judgment: And as to what they told the House of Lords, that the matter was then depending before them, [illegible] falsity, and design'd only as an Excuse to [illegible] the hearing

ing of the matter in Parliament. Much more might be said of these Men concerning the *Navy* and *Army*, how they have brow-beat and discourag'd Witnesses, and Incourag'd Knaves and Villains, stifled Complaints, &c. So that these Men instead of being a *Chicque* to Corruption; have been the *Props and Pillars to support it*, as true Servants and Vassals to the Court.

Certainly such a Commission might have been of exceeding use to the publick, had it consisted of true *Englishmen*, and been Wisely and Honestly manag'd; for 'twou'd have been a place to Punish and reform Knavery and Villany, and Rogues and Cheats, with Tears in their Eyes, might have call'd in the terrible Office of *Inquisition*, but now, on the contrary, they may Rejoyce, and truly say, 'tis an Office of *Absolution*; For they have Examin'd no Accounts, nor sav'd the Nation a penny of Mony this War, but Knaves, Knavery and Taxes have constantly Increas'd; all that they do, as I know of, is, they receive the Accounts of the Receipts and Issues of the King's Revenue from all Offices and Persons, and then they take the pains to Transcribe in Books and Methods of their own, so as to be able to Answer any Question of the House of Commons, relating to the Receipts of the Revenue or Charge of the War, but to detect Frauds, is so small a part of their work that they hardly Regard it. Sure, in this mighty Mass of Corruption the parties concern'd, could not have subsisted without the help of this Office; for it is a Receptacle for all their Knavish Accounts, where being New-Moulded (without Alteration) they receive a *Vizard* of Honesty; In short, this Office, as 'tis manag'd, has been a great *Blind to the Nation*, and may (for its Abominable foulness) be fitly compar'd to a Capital Common-shoar, into which abundance of other Common-shoars and little petty Sinks do Empty themselves.

C. But Sir, I tell you again, They are Men utterly unqualify'd

fy'd for any Employments at Court, to what end therefore can this Corruption be among them? really 'tis still a Riddle to me.

G. Why Sir, to the same End that all other Corruption is Namely *to get Money*, and I must tell you they are in a most Excellent way for it, because they have in their power to Crush or Protect such a great Number of Knaves of all sorts and sizes: And I hope Sir, you don't question but that they have *Pockets* and *Coffers* enough to put their Money in, as well as the Courtiers: Therefore pray where's the Riddle on't, for my part, I see none at all: For it plainly appears, these Gentlemen have been so far from obstructing, that they have afforded great help, and performed their part towards the Destruction of their Country, as well as the rest.

C. Well, admit all you say is true, and that there is such a General Corruption as you speak of; How that you help it at present, pray would you have the King at the Jun'ture immediately go to Turning out, and Punishing such a great Number of Men? Certainly, it would make such Disorder and Confusion, as would soon start up the very Foundation of the Government, and that would be a Remedy with a Witness.

G. Why then I find you have Changed your Opinion, and own at last, that the Nation is Sick; But now to save the *Court*, you would have the Distemper so far gone, that there is not strength left to undergo a Course of Physick, with our Imminent hazard of Life: I confess the Court of all sorts of Physick, ever hated Purges. They will take Gold Cordials, and they are great Admirers of Quieting Pills, but Purging they mortally hate, and will have it to be a Vile and Dangerous way of Practice. But, to speak in your own words--- Admit what you say is true, that the Government is brought to this degree of Feebleness, Pray how highly

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then is the King and Nation Oblig'd to these Long-headed *STATES-MEN* and *COUNCELLORS* (whose Parts and Honesty, for these Years past, it has been almost Treason to Question) Or what Satisfaction can they render to His Majesty, and the People of *England*, for bringing upon them this Insufferable Disease?

But now, Sir, pardon me, if I differ a little from you in Opinion: I do not believe the Government is so weak, but that a Fit Remedy might be apply'd for all these Evils, and that is, to Turn Out in the first place some of those that have been most Obnoxious to the People, and put in their Rooms Men of Publick Spirit, Fearing God, and Hating Covetousness, and they will have Courage sufficient to Ballance the rest of the Wicked Party, till the Law is let loose to do its Proper Office upon them that are Turn'd Out, whose Punishment will strike others with Great Terror, and make them fearful how they Offend: But if they escape, 'twill be a most Pernicious Example to Encourage and Excite all Men to become as Corrupt as they; 'twill also be highly Displeasing to God, and 'twill greatly Incense the People; and indeed neither has any Rightful Power to Pardon them, because their Crimes have been Universal, and committed not only against the King, but against the Whole Body of the People of *England*. In this manner the Court may be soon Gradually Purg'd, and then the Inferiours will of consequence be purg'd also. The Scripture says, *Resist the Devil, and he will flee from you*; and so does the same Rule holds for those that have Acted like his Children; Therefore why shou'd we fear to Execute JUSTICE upon them? Alas, they are but poor Feeble Creatures, not Worth mentioning, in Comparison of the Force of the Law: 'tis true, they have Power to do great *Mischief* in their Stations, as we have found to our Cost, but when the Law lays hold on them, their Power ceases like the

Power of a *Witch*, when She's Seiz'd by a *Constable*: Certainly he that knows their Actions, and Contributes to Save them from the Just Censure and Sentence of the Law, makes himself an Approver, before God, of all the Ruin and Destruction they have brought upon this Nation, and of all the Innocent Families they have Destroyd, and Blood they have Spilt; Therefore, unless the Law is put in Execution, there can be but a Half-fac'd Regulation, or a Palliative Cure, that will soon Relapse, and become Incurable. For, let none Absurdly and Foolishly Dream, that God will suffer us to Prosper in the midst of those Oppressions, Frauds, and most Hainous Immoralities, that we are Bound in Duty, and Able by Authority to Punish and Hinder. 'Tis a False and Villanous Saying, to Whisper in the Ears of *Princes*, That Wholesome Laws have any Antipathy to *True Policy*: The Law, when 'tis Upheld, is the *Princes* best Friend, it cannot Dissemble, but always faithfully stands by Him, ready to Oppose His Enemies: It gives Him His RIGHT, and His Subjects theirs, and so makes a Powerful Prince, and a Vertuous Wealthy and Peaceable Government. But 'tis Natural for Corrupt Men to Hate Good Laws, and that makes it, and the Nation have so many Enemies at Court. And now, after all, when these *Long-headed Men* have brought the Nation to this *Pitch* of *Ruin*, for them Cunningly to Insinuate, That 'twill be Dangerous to Call them to an Account, for their *CRIMES*, and Administer Help to our Selves, Pursuant to the Laws of *God* and the *Nation*, is an *Unparallel'd Audacious Absurdity*: But I confess, we can expect no better Advice from that Party, because the King and Kingdoms Safety, seems Opposite to Theirs; For hitherto they have Pernitiously and Pittifully made Themselves the Center of all Their Actions.

C. Sir,

C. Sir, I believe things are bad enough; but, methinks you're too Furious for a Regulation; really 'twill put things into Great Disorder; therefore I am of Opinion 'tis better to see the Succels of One Year more.

G. As for Staying a Year longer 'twill be highly dangerous; *Why should God be Provoked; and the Nation Oppress'd a Year Longer?* perhaps a Year hence we shall not have abillity to help our selves. 'Tis said in the Law of *Moses*, *Thou shalt not delay Justice*, as if the Legislator had said, Thou shalt not put it off to a further time. The poor Mans Cause shall not be delay'd an hour. God knows by willful and Needless delays Multitudes of private persons are Barbarously Robb'd of their Right and utterly Ruin'd by the horrid, delatory, Expensive unrighteous practice in our Courts of Law and Equity; therefore let that Suffice, and let not the whole Body of the People have a General Ruin, by a Delay in the State. Certainly 'twill be very Dangerous to delay the Cause of this drooping Nation any longer. The Learned Stater from Speaking of forefunners of Troubles, says, *That when any of the four Pillars of Government are Shaken or Weaken'd (which are Religion, Justice, Counsel, and Treasure) we had need pray for fair Weather.* Now certainly with us not only some, but all these Pillars are Shaking and Ready to fall; as for Religion we have none, though we have much *Praising, Praying*, &c. for had we any Real *Religion*, we should have *Justice and Morality*. Justice it plainly appears has almost quite left us. And as for *Council or Policy*, I Confess we have abundance of that, but it is of a Wretched Stamp, being such as is opposite to Divine and Humane Law. And for our *Mines of Treasure*, we may Reckon that gone also; For though there may still be a great Stock in the Nation, yet the people may Starve, because by a long devouring Corruption it's almost all gather'd into the hands of a few *Courtiers*, that neither do nor will use it. 'Tis

'Tis no hard Conjecture to say that a *General Poverty, Oppression, Breaking of Laws, and Advancement of Unworthy Persons to Great Offices*, are Common Motives to, and Forerunners of Seditions and Troubles; and the certain way to prevent these Evils, is to take away the Cause and Matter of them, which the Administration of Justice, and Suppressing of Vice and Wickedness will Effectually do; For God will surely give Success to all such Remedies, if they be Sincerely and Faithfully apply'd, and all contrary Policy in this Case, must certainly prove very Foolish, if not Fatal.

How Ridiculous is it to Delay this Matter, and to think that these Persons now upon the Stage, can ever make this a Flourishing Nation, when they have neither *Parts* nor *Moral Vertues* equal to other [illegible] 'Tis true, they are Gifted with a little Cunning, which a Learned Statesman (truly) says, *Is only a Crooked sort of Wisdom*. Besides, it does appear by above Seven Years Experience, that the very Talent of these Gentlemen lies not to Enrich or Increase, but to Impoverish, and bring a Flourishing State to Ruin and Decay, *and to Trample upon Law and Justice, and all Good Men*, and (as one excellently observes) *to make Magistracy, which was Intended for the Benefit of Mankind, prove a Plague and Destruction to it.* But the Honour of God, and the Good of their Prince and Country is the least of their Care. They Level their Councils and Politicks to their own Advantage, and Slyly Study *rather be throughly acquainted with their Master's Temper, than to be Skilful in His Business.* I Pray God that all the Enemies of our King and Nations Happiness may be Plentifully Stock'd with Statesmen of such Parts and Honesty, and be so effectually blinded as not to perceive them.

Certainly at this time a Day, when Poverty, and consequently Discontentment is so Universal, 'tis Highly Dangerous to make any Delay in Justice; For, of this you may rest

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Assur'd, *That as many as are Ruin'd, or Impoverish'd in their Substance, by Injustice, or Male-Administration, so many* VOTES *there is for* TROUBLES.

C. Why really I know not well what to say to't; I wish all things were done for the Best: But yet methinks 'tis strange to Observe, That all these Complaints have been brought upon the Stage, by a few Inconsiderable Men, such as had generally Bad Characters, and were Reported to be very Ill Men in themselves, and that they did these things with Ill Designs, and I believe that was one Reason why they were no more taken Notice of, as likewise because none of any Great Figure appear'd with them.

G. Why that's no Wonder at all: For it may be observ'd, that the Generality of the World is so Foolish, that they regard more the Outward Manner of things, than the Inward Matter of them. It is so in Religion it self (to our Eternal Shame be it spoken) as appears by the Vast Troops of Pious Hypocrites, *Overseers, Pastors, and Members of all Churches*, who take Great Pains by abundance of *Praying* and *Preaching*, and *Fasting*, to make an Outward Gaudy Shew of Godliness, but use no Hearty, nor Sincere Endeavours really to Suppress Vice and Wickedness: *As if Religion was a Noun Substantive, that cou'd stand by it self, without requiring Morality to be joyn'd with it.*

As for the *Ill Characters* these Persons generally have, that's no wonder neither; For, 'tis one great Master-piece of this Corrupt Party's Policy, *in their Fencing with Law and Justice*, to serve all those that Complain of Grievances, as the Persecuting *Pagans* did the Primitive *Christians*, *who put them into Lyons and Bears Skins, that the Dogs might seize on them, and Bait them to Death*; So these Monsters, after they have Perverted, Delay'd, Deny'd, or otherways Baffled Justice, give an Honest Man a Cursed Character, and in that *Masquerade*

turn

turn him loose to the Mercy of a *Mistaken Multitude*: But certainly 'tis a high degree of Presumption, as well as Deceiving and Wronging the Publick, thus falsely to Brand those (that stand up for the Interest of their *Country*, to preserve their Laws and Liberties) with such Base *Characters*, as persons Disaffected to the King and Government, as tho' by such Complaints they only design'd to stir up the Minds of the People to *Sedition* and *Rebellion*; when, in Truth, 'tis themselves that only *Bid Fair for REBELLION*, by their Corrupt and Wicked practices: For he that Endeavours to Inform King and People of such Dangerous Distempers in the STATE, certainly does nothing but his Duty, and therefore cannot deserve such an Odious *Character*, for endeavouring to Preserve, Support and Defend *the King, Government and Laws he lives under*. But he, that by his horrible Male-Administration, and Oppression, endeavours to overthrow all, let him be in ever so great a Place to pass his *Crafty Censures* on others, does certainly himself deserve the Name and Punishment of a *Rebel* and *Traytor*.

C. But, pray Sir, Answer me one thing, How can the Government be so corrupt, as you say, and so regardless of Justice, when there has been divers Great Men turn'd out this Reign for *Mismanagement*? These must be Acts of Justice, unless you'l say, they were all Turn'd out only for their Honesty.

G. Not I indeed Sir, If I should say so, I shou'd wrong my Conscience, But I believe I can unfold the Mistery, which generally I take to be only this; all Men know the Court is divided into Factions, which sometimes have a difference, either about their *Profit* or *Preferment* or something of like Nature, when the Quarrel is broach'd one must overcome and perhaps the others fall into disgarce; But they are not turn'd out for any of their Crimes, or through any principle of Justice

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in their Adverſarys, but only through a private peake and Quarrel, *wherein Vertue, Honeſty, and the Publick Good has no Concern*; For you may obſerve in the Courſe of this War that though there has been great Crimes alleag'd againſt ſome of thoſe that were turn'd out: Yet after they were diſmiſs'd their Adverſarys made no proſecution againſt them, Not for want of *Malice* or *Proof*, but as if both partys were alike Concern'd and ſo Equally afraid of the Law. Juſt as two *Harlots* (Pardon the Compariſon) that live together, and falling out about their Profit, the Strongeſt turns the Weakeſt out of doors; Why this is no Argument that ſhe's Vertuous that Remains in the Houſe: For both of them were *Harlots* before they met, *Harlots* while they liv'd together, and *Harlots* after they parted; Neither does the *Prevailing Harlot* follow the other with Warrants to ſend her to the houſe of Correction, becauſe 'twill alſo bring her ſelf into Jeopardy: *For the ſame Law will Whip them both.*

C. Sir, I could wiſh with all my Heart that things were better, yet ſure they cannot be ſo very bad as you ſay, becauſe there are in Office perſons of different Opinions, part *Churchmen* and part *Diſſenters*, and no doubt it has been Wiſdome ſo to do: For they wou'd be forward, and glad of an Opportunity to tell each others Faults, to Weaken the Contrary party, and Strengthen their own; So that there's Cauſe to believe they have hitherto been a perfect Checque upon each others Actions, and therefore it do's not ſtand to reaſon there can be ſuch a United Cabal as you ſpeak off.

G. Why Sir, this is only another *Court Riddle* much like the former, which has alſo Confounded the Judgments of the people; yet if a Man will but Conſult Reaſon 'tis Eaſily unfolded. I believe there is at Court the *Church-party* and the *Diſſenting-party* (as they call themſelves) and I Confeſs the Ar-

Argument that you bring from it seems something plausible, though I can by no means allow it to be true.

The Philosophers say; *That one Experiment will knock a hundred Arguments in the head:* Then Certainly your Argument cannot stand, For we have seen by long and Woful Experience that these partys have had no differences in the State for promoting the Honour of God, the good of their Prince and Country, and Suppressing Vice and Wickedness; *For these indeed wou'd have been glorious Quarrels*, But all their differences have been Independant of this only to promote *Private Interest*.

What though they seem to be at Variance one with another, It has hitherto been found, If any Man offers to do his Duty, and Stand up for the Publick Good, he finds no difference in them, but they are all his Mortal Enemys: *Church* and *Dissenters* all alike, all stand firm for the *Profitabl. Cause of Corruption*, to Betray their King, and Ruin their Country; This I say we have found by Experience, and therefore all the Arguments in the World will never Refute it.

What though they pretend to diverse Opinions in Religion, What then? Do not *Harlots* do the same? Yes Certainly, there are *Church of England Harlots, Dissenting Harlots, Roman Catholick Harlots, &c.* Though these pretend to different Religions, yet they are all of one *Trade*, and no doubt wou'd Unanimously agree in the Main that all *Justices of Peace, Constables, Houses of Correction, &c.* should be Suppress'd, because by them their *Trade is Obstructed*: So in like manner these Men notwithstanding any petty Differences, Stand together in a body against *Law and Justice*, because it tends to Mortify their Ambition and Lusts, and to hinder their Profit.

But Sir, I am afraid after all that you and I are Mistaken, and that the Court do's not Consist so much of a Real *Church of England* and *Dissenting party* as of a *Predominant Atheistical party*,

Party, for so indeed they appear to be by their Actions; and it also agrees with our Saviours Rule, *That the Tree is known by its Fruits*; For 'tis Certainly very foolish, and Contradictory to say, *That a Corrupt and Wicked Man has any real Religion*, let him pretend to what he will; so that these that Divide themselves into two divisions, under the Masquerade of *Church* and *Dissenters*, do plainly appear to be but one and the same party, whose *Morals* and *Practice* is such that they can truly be of no *Religion* or *Church*, unless they be of the *Synagogue of Satan*.

C. Why Sir, I know not what to say to it, you have such an odd way of Arguing; yet methinks 'tis Strange the Nations Grievances should arrive to so great a pitch (as you say they are at) with so little Opposition. Why 'tis in Effect Charging the whole Body of the People to be a Company of *Sharp, Senseless, Sours and Fools*, that having *Laws* and *Privileges*, they did not make more *Powerful* and *Formidable Complaints* to the *Parliament*. Therefore I must still tell you 'tis very unintelligible to me to believe that Matters can be so bad as you say, and the People so quiet; *Who so bravely like Englishmen Stood up for their Laws and Privileges in the late Reign.*

G. Certainly Sir, the Peoples Patience ought not to be used as an Argument to Continue their Grievances, I'm sure that is an odd way of Arguing. However I Waive it, and for your Satisfaction shall give you some Reasons why they have hitherto been so quiet under their Burdens.

The *Revolution* (you know) was wrought by the General Consent of the People, who for many Years past have had great and just Apprehensions, and fears of *Popery and Slavery*. The War was also Engag'd in by our general Approbation, so that having a King after our

own Heart, so generally Belov'd, a known Protestant, and Engag'd in a War that we so long wish'd for, every Man then slept Secure, thinking all things were safe, *because the Head was Sound*; and the *Court* likewise, and all the *vast Troops of their Dependants* Gry'd up the same thing (as indeed they had good Reason) *for Matters went well with them*; So that the generallity of the People being Void of Mistrust never Troubled themselves about *State Matters*, but minded their Private Affairs, and with great Willingness paid the *Taxes*.

Whereas in the late Reign, the King being a known *Papist*, all the People in general were possest with Jealousy, and even the very Gobler in his Stall wou'd Eagerly Enquire after News, and thought himself Concern'd to know the Affairs of the *Court*: So that the Actions of the *State*, and the Peoples Knowledge of it, went hand in hand; For we see they were forewarn'd to make such provision as they did to disappoint their designs; For then *the King Acted openly with his Court*, but now *the Court Acts privately without the King*, by hiding each others Crimes, and the Peoples Grievances from him, *having had the great advantage of His Majesty's Absence about Six Months in every Year during the Course of this War*: And this I take to be a Principal reason why the generallity of the People have been so quiet from making any *Public Complaints*.

But then it may be further observed, there's a great Difference between the Grievances of the late, and those of this Regin; The one was the Endeavouring to take away our *Laws*, to bring in *Popery*, which all the Nation were Enemies to: Rich and Poor, Good and Bad, Vertuous and Vitious, Saint and Sinner, all were utter Enemys to *Popery*: Besides it would take away abundance of *Estates of Abbey lands* which was so great and general an

Allarm

Allarm to the whole Nation, but Especially to the *Clergy*, That *those Celebrated, Simple, Threadbare Doctrines of Passive-Obedience, Non-Resistance, &c. were Instantly frighted out of the Kingdom, and never heard of since*: Nay, I dare Affirm, the very *Papists* themselves (tho' 'twas to Introduce their own Religion) wou'd ha been very unwilling to part with any of these Estates.

But what are our Grievances now! VVhy not about *Popery*; They only consist of *Pure Downright Cheating the Publick*; And, Sir, *to our Eternal Shame and Infamy*, I must tell you, *That multitudes of Poperies Zealous and Mortal Enemies are Dear and Intimate Friends to this*. Nay, to speak in General, there are few Men but what will much rather chuse to take Part in it, than make Complaint against it; *for indeed the Nation is miserably Debauch'd by the horrid Nasty Fogs and Fumes of the Courts unsavoury Noysome Lusts*.

But now, after all this Mighty *Hate to Popery* and *Love to Cheating*, the Consequence of both is much alike; For if our Present Grievances, viz. *Cheating the Publick*, be well follow'd, *the People will soon be made Beggars and Bankrupts*; and then *Poverty and Slavery* will be found as True and Proper a Saying, as *Popery and Slavery*: And therefore, (to Speak in your own Stile) I think there's many that do well deserve the Character of *Sleepy, Senceless Sots* and *Fools*; But especially those Great Ones that have got Vast Estates by Fraud, Treachery, *&c.* Sure they are Besotted with a WITNESS, Fondly to Fancy, that they shall hold their Ill-got-Goods by Vertue of those Wholesome Laws that they have Constantly broke to Get them, *This, I say, is a strange Paradox*.

 And

And now, pray, Who wou'd you have to Complain of Grievances, and especially of these sort of Grievances, that are so generally Belov'd by those that shou'd Redress them: You see a very considerable part of the Nation are Silent, for Reasons I spoke of just now; and as for the Popularity, or Middle sort, *viz.* Traders, Husbandmen, *&c.* who are the Main Body of the People, they know their Grievances in General, but can tell nothing in Particular, where to fix the Fault; and so cannot Complain, but only *Grumble*, *Mutter* and *Murmur*.

And now, if a *Self-interested Man* won't Complain, and if an *Ignorant Man* can't Complain, and if a *Wise* and *Honest Man* (that knows the Strength and Power of the Corrupt Party) dare not Complain; Pray, Who wou'd you have to Complain at all? Certainly, 'tis so far from being strange (as you say) that so few have Complain'd, That 'tis a great wonder to me, how any have had so much *GRACE* or *COURAGE*, to open their Mouths against *Corruption*.

For who d'think shou'd Complain of a *Universal and Gainful Grievance?* You see the *Destruction of our Coyn* went forward all this Reign, and had even just *destroy'd the Government* before our *Long-Headed Statesmen* did take the Pains to put *King or Parliament* in Mind to Redress it; This cou'd not possibly be through Ignorance: no, there was too much Money got by the Evil: and when the Trade cou'd be carried on no longer, *Then they all Cry'd out, like Patriots of their Countrey, to have it Redress'd.* So that for this *Branch of the Nations Ruin*, we may also Thank the *Court*, and Pray God we get well over it.

These

These are all Miserable and Destructive Evils, that this Poor Nation at present Staggers under, only for want of the Early, Constant and Impartial *Execution of Justice* to Encourage Virtue, and Suppress Vice. *How it seems this has been contrary to the deep Maxims of our Policy, and so has hitherto been omitted:* And thus I think I have shew'd you, why so few have Publickly Complain'd, tho' the Nation is so Loaded with Grievances. But I had almost forgot one Party and that is the *Jacobites*; and, I hope you would not have them Complain against these Grievances: no, they had much rather forward them. For, 'tis upon these *Shameful-Corruptions* they build their Hopes, and for which they Contemn and Scoff at the Government in all Publick Places, and Encrease their Party by many Proselytes; For no Honest Man is capable to Contradict them, being able to say nothing that is Good of the Court: Whereas, had Justice been duly Administred, and Vice and Wickedness Punished and Supprest'd (which we had, and have Power enough to do) there could not have been at this day a *Protestant Jacobite* left in the Nation: For, the Justice and Equity of the Government must needs long before this, have Brought them all over from *Stubborn Folly*, and made them *Profitable to their own Interest, and to Common Sence*, as well as Loving and Loyal Subjects to His Majesty.

And now, Sir, since you have Ask'd me several Questions, I shall beg leave Calmly to Ask you one, and that is, Pray to what end were your Honours and Employments Conferr'd upon you? *Were they, Admit only to get a Great Estate to leave to your Posterity?* Certainly the Duty's Incumbent on such Offices cannot have so poor

poor a Center, but muſt aim at much Higher and Nobler Objects. If a Man would ſtedily conſider them. But I ſhall not detain you at preſent with an Account how Great and Extenſive they are, not doubting your Knowledge therein: however, in point of Prudence, I cannot but put you in Mind,

That (as a Privy-Councellor) you have Power to *Adminiſter Juſtice*, but no Power to *Obſtruct* it.

You have Power to put the *Law in Execution*, but you have no Power to *Evacuate it, or render it uſeleſs*.

You have Power to Puniſh any *Capital Publick Offender*, but you have no Power to *Conceal his Crimes, Protect him, or to Him Eſcape Puniſhment*. For, in doing it, you betray the *King*, and take from Him His *Kingly Power*, and Rob the People of their *Laws and Liberties*. For you are to conſider, that in hearing the Crimes of a *Publick Offender*, your Power only extends to Hear and Examine that Cauſe in Truſt for your *King and Country*, that *Law* and *Juſtice* may take place; *and a Lord Chief Juſtice may no more lawfully pretend to Pardon* MURDER, *or Forgive one of my Debtors, as a Juſtice of Peace to Compound that Felony wherein I am Robb'd, or for you to Protect or Acquit any Publick Offender.*

In ſhort, In all your Publick Stations, you're only a *Truſtee for your Prince and Country*, to promote the Intereſt of both, and you are Anſwerable to both, in this World, as well as to God in the next, how you Diſcharge theſe Truſts; *and I fear many* MEN *have moſt Dreadful Reckonings to make on this Account.*

Therefore

Therefore Sir, I do Earneſtly Adviſe you to take a Reſolution to Save your Self from the Terrible Burden of this Guilt, and *Rouſe a Noble Engliſh Genius, and ſtand up for the Honour of God, and the Good of your Prince and Country* (whoſe true Intereſts are Inſeparable) *that Juſtice may be Adminiſtred, Vertue Incourag'd, and Vice and Wickedneſs Puniſh'd and Suppreſs'd:* For if you Sincerely Study True Pollicy, God will ſurely Inſtruct, and put you in the Right Way; Otherwiſe, you may ſtill Continue to Wander, as you have Hitherto done: But after all, do not Entertain any fond opinion, that a Private Company of Men *can poſſibly hold their Riches in the midſt of a Ruin'd Nation*; No, Certainly they muſt be Ruin'd alſo: For if there's any Law, that will do their buſineſs; if not, They'l only have the pleaſure of being Plunder'd laſt, by an Inrag'd and Furious Popularity. For (as 'tis ſaid in Job,) *Fire ſhall Conſume the Tabernacles of Bribery.* If God has ſaid it, We may affirm it; and Pawn our Lives and Souls, 'twill be done if Amendement be not made.

F I N I S.

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